



City of Seattle

---

Gregory J. Nickels, Mayor  
**Department of Planning and Development**  
D. M. Sugimura, Director

**CITY OF SEATTLE  
ANALYSIS AND DECISION OF THE DIRECTOR OF  
THE DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT**

**Application Number:** 2306874  
**Applicant Name:** Brad Decker  
**Address of Proposal:** 2414 S.W. Holden Street

**SUMMARY OF PROPOSED ACTION**

Master use permit to subdivide one parcel into eight unit lots. This subdivision of property is only for the purpose of allowing sale or lease of the unit lots. Development standards will be applied to the original parcel and not to each of the unit lots. The construction of townhouses has been approved under project #2208301 and #2303470. Proposed parcel sizes are: A) 1,217.6 sq. ft., B) 1,273.7 sq. ft., C) 1,561.6 sq. ft., D) 1,561.6 sq. ft., E) 1,561.6 sq. ft., F) 1,561.7 sq. ft., G) 1,561.7 sq. ft.; and H) 3,052.3 sq. ft.

The following approval is required:

Unit Lot Subdivision - to divide one parcel into eight unit lots.  
Seattle Municipal Code (SMC) Chapter 23.24

**SEPA DETERMINATION:** ☒ Exempt ☐ DNS ☐ MDNS ☐ EIS

☐ DNS with conditions

☐ DNS involving non-exempt grading or demolition or  
involving another agency with jurisdiction

## **BACKGROUND DATA**

### **Site & Area Description**

The subject site is located to the west of the intersection of Southwest Holden Street and 24<sup>th</sup> Avenue Southwest, on the north side of Southwest Holden Street, in the West Seattle Neighborhood. The site is zoned residential Lowrise Two (L-2). Adjacent properties to the north, south, east and west are also zoned L-2. The properties further to the west of the site are zoned Commercial (C-1/30'). The immediate vicinity is comprised primarily of single-family residences and small-scale multifamily structures.

### **Proposal Description**

The applicant proposes to subdivide the subject parcel into eight unit lots, each lot containing a dwelling unit in one of the structures. Vehicle access to the site is proposed from Southwest Holden and an ingress egress access and utility easement. Parking for eight vehicles will be provided within the townhouse structures. Pedestrian access is provided for all unit lots. Open space would be provided adjacent to each unit.

### **Public Comments**

Notice of the proposed project was published on October 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2003. The required public comment period ended on November 5<sup>th</sup>, 2003. No written comment was received.

## **ANALYSIS – UNIT LOT SUBDIVISION**

SMC Section 23.24.040 provides that the Director shall use the following criteria to determine whether to grant, condition, or deny a short plat application:

1. *Conformance to the applicable Land Use Code provisions;*
2. *Adequacy of access for vehicles, utilities, and fire protection, as provided in Chapter 23.53.005;*
3. *Adequacy of drainage, water supply, and sanitary sewage disposal;*
4. *Whether the public use and interests are served by permitting the proposed division of land;*
5. *Conformance to the applicable provisions of SMC Section 25.09.240, short subdivisions and subdivisions in environmentally critical areas.*
6. *Is designed to maximize the retention of existing trees;*

7. *Conformance with unit subdivision provisions.*

Based on information provided by the applicant, referral comments and information supplied by the Seattle Public Utilities (“SPU”), Seattle Department of Transportation (“SDOT”), the Seattle Fire Department (“SFD”), and Seattle City Light (“SCL”), the following findings are made by the Land Use Planner with respect to the above-cited criteria:

1. Because this is a unit lot subdivision, development standards apply to the parent lot. There is no minimum lot size requirement in the L-2 zone. The density standard stated in SMC Section 23.45.008, which permits no more than 1 unit for each 1,200 square feet, is met for the development as a whole. The proposal conforms to development standards in all other respects. Hence, the proposal is deemed to comply with applicable Land Use Code requirements and policy provisions. Any additional new construction would be required to meet development standards of the Land Use Code for the parent lot.
2. All unit lots would take vehicular access from southwest Holden Street and an ingress egress access and utility easement. A pedestrian easement is provided for the benefit of all unit lots. Seattle City Light previously obtained an easement, to provide electrical service to this property, on the access road into the property. Therefore, they have approved this application. The Seattle Fire Department had no comments or requirements for the proposal.

In short, as conditioned, there would be adequate access to the lots for off-street parking, vehicles, utilities, and fire protection.

3. SPU issued Water Availability Certificate No. 2003-1179 indicating that the water supply is adequate. DPD’s drainage reviewer reported that there is a 8 inch public sanitary sewer (PSS) located in S.W. Holden St. There is a 15-inch public storm drain (PSD) located in S.W. Holden St. This area is part of the Longfellow Creek Drainage Sub-basin.

The provided survey indicates the presence of concrete curb and gutter to convey surface runoff to the PSD by means of curb discharge. The PSD discharges to a Designated Receiving Water. A standard drainage control plan was required at the time of building permit application.

In short, there will be adequate drainage, water supply, and sanitary sewage disposal.

4. The purpose of the L-2 family policies is to provide multifamily areas of low height and small bulk where units have direct access to private, landscaped yard, thereby increasing housing opportunities for families with children and others seeking ground-related housing. As conditioned below, the public interests would be served by permitting the proposed division of land, in that more housing will be provided inside the City and in that the proposed parcels would permit the multifamily housing types consistent with the intent of the zone.
5. The site is not located in an Environmentally Critical Area (ECA).

6. The site will be fully developed pursuant to issued building permits and no additional development is proposed. However, the Residential Multifamily Regulations require that trees be planted in landscaped areas with new low-rise multifamily structures. For lots over 3000 square feet at least two (2) caliper inches of tree per 1,000 square feet of lot area must be planted per lot. This requirement was addressed through the building permit review process.
7. The following analysis pertains to unit lot subdivision criteria:

The provisions of SMC Section 23.24.045 are as follows:

- A. The provisions of this Section apply exclusively to the unit subdivision of townhouses, cottage housing, clustered housing, or single family residences in Lowrise zones.*

The subject proposal would establish separate lots for the eight-townhouse units, proposed for construction, thus falling within the purview of SMC Section 23.24.045.

- B. Sites developed or proposed to be developed with dwelling units listed in subsection A above may be subdivided into individual unit lots. The development as a whole shall meet development standards applicable at the time the permit application is vested. As a result of the subdivision, development on individual unit lots may be nonconforming as to some or all of the development standards based on analysis of the individual unit, except that any private, usable open space for each dwelling unit shall be provided on the same lot as the dwelling unit it serves.*

The development as a whole, on the parent lot, meets development standards. Useable private open space meets standards.

- C. Subsequent platting actions, additions or modifications to the structure(s) may not create or increase any nonconformity of the parent lot.*

The note added pursuant to Criterion F below should assure proper control of future platting actions, additions or modifications to structure(s).

- D. Access easements and joint use and maintenance agreements shall be executed for use of common garage or parking areas, common open space (such as common courtyard space for cottage housing), and other similar features, as recorded with the Director of the King County Department of Records and Elections.*

Approval is additionally conditioned upon proper provision of joint use and maintenance agreements for the use and maintenance of the easement areas and maintenance of common interest elements such as shared walls.

- E. Within the parent lot, required parking for a dwelling unit may be provided on a different unit lot than the lot with the dwelling unit, as long as the right to use that parking is formalized by an easement on the plat, as recorded with the Director of the King County Department of Records and Elections*

Not applicable, parking is provided on each lot. Parking for eight vehicles is provided within the townhouse structures.

- F. The fact that additional development of the individual unit lots may be limited as result of the application of development standards to the parent lot shall be noted on the plat, as recorded with the Director of the King County Department of Records and Elections.*

Review of this site plan shows that the proposed unit lot subdivision conforms to applicable standards of SMC 23.24.045 and for townhouses in the L-2 zone. To assure that future owners have constructive notice that additional development may be limited; the following statement shall be required to be included as a note on the final unit lot subdivision: "Unit lots are not separate buildable lots. Additional development on these unit lots in this subdivision may be limited as a result of the application of development standards to their parent lot pursuant to applicable provisions of the Seattle Land Use Code, Chapter 23 of the Seattle Municipal Code."

### **DECISION – UNIT LOT SUBDIVISION**

The proposed Unit Lot Subdivision is **CONDITIONALLY GRANTED.**

### **CONDITIONS - UNIT LOT SUBDIVISION**

#### **Prior to Recording**

The owner(s) and responsible party(s) shall:

1. Provide legal descriptions for the lots and the easements with the plat for recording.
2. Provide final recording forms and fee payable to King County Recorder.
3. Add the conditions of approval after recording on the face of the plat or on a separate page.
4. Add to the face of the plat map a private use and maintenance agreement for the parcels with access from the easements and for common interest elements such as shared walls. Alternately, the applicant may choose to record the private use and maintenance agreement by separate document and reference the King County recording number in the Short Plat dedication with the following language: "A private use and maintenance

agreement encumbers the lots shown hereon as disclosed in that document recorded in the office of the King County Recorder under recording number \_\_\_\_\_”.

5. Add statements to the face of the plat as follows: “Unit lots are not separate buildable lots. Additional development of these unit lots in this subdivision may be limited as a result of the application of development standards to their parent lot pursuant to applicable provisions of the Seattle Land Use Code, Chapter 23 of the Seattle Municipal Code.”
6. Have final recording documents prepared by or under the supervision of a Washington State licensed land surveyor. Each lot, parcel, or tract created by the short subdivision shall be surveyed in accordance with appropriate State statutes. The property corners set shall be identified on the plat and encroachments such as side yard easements, fences or structures shall be shown. All existing structures shall be shown on the face of the plat, and their distances to the property lines dimensioned. Lot areas shall be shown on the plat.
7. Add to the face of the plat map the recorded Seattle City Light easement.
8. Provide, on face of plat, an easement or covenant to allow for posting of individual unit addresses in a manner visible from Southwest Holden Street.

After Recording and Prior to Issuance of any Building Permit for Parcels A, B, C, D, E, F, G & H

The owner(s) and responsible party(s) shall:

9. Attach a copy of the recorded plat to all building permit sets of plans.

Prior to Final of Unit Lots A, B, C, D, E, F, G & H

10. A street address sign, meeting the standards of Chapter 5, Section 502 of the 1997 SBC, shall be erected to show addresses from Southwest Holden Street, either by easement or covenant, for all individual units.

Signature: (signature on file) Date: December 11, 2003  
Joan S. Carson, Land Use Planner II  
Department of Planning and Development  
Land Use Services

JSC:bg

Carson/UnitLotSubdivision/2306874.dec